

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: SUSAN SPRANZA

Attorney Docket Nos. SDEV-1-1003, -  
1004, -1006, -1007, -1008, -  
1009, -1012, -1013, -1015

Serial No.: MULTIPLE (SEE BELOW)

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filing Date: May 27, 2004

Examiner:

Assignee: N/A

Title: N/A

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**REQUEST UNDER 37 CFR § 1.42 AND 35 U.S.C. 117  
IN THE EVENT OF DEATH OR INCAPACITY OF INVENTOR**

Susan Spranza, the widow and the legal representative of deceased inventor Joseph J. Spranza III, requests recognition before the U.S.P.T.O. to prosecute the below currently pending applications for patent as well as maintaining already issued patent in compliance with the requirements and on the same terms and conditions applicable to the now deceased inventor Joseph J. Spranza III. A true and correct copy of Inventor's Death Certificate is included herein as Exhibit A.

Please see the attached true and correct copy of the Order on Trustee's Motion of April 1, 2008 distributing to Susan Spranza the personal property of inventor Joseph J. Spranza III (Exhibit B) including the properties listed in the table below:

O/R:	SERIAL NO.	INVENTORS/ ASSIGNEE	TITLE	FILING DATE
SDEV-1-1003	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/697,444	NAMBA, SPRANZA	SAFETY GUIDE FOR SURGICAL PLACEMENT OF SHARP INSTRUMENTS	10/29/03
SDEV-1-1004	U.S. Patent Application No. 11/416,516	NAMBA, SPRANZA	SAFETY GUIDE FOR SURGICAL PLACEMENT OF SHARP INSTRUMENTS	
SDEV-1-1006	U.S. Patent No. 6,302,887 (09/119,357)	HUENE, SPRANZA	HARDWARE FOR HIGH STRENGTH FASTENING OF BONE	ISSUED OCT 16, 2001
SDEV-1-1007	U.S. Patent No. 6,692,502 (08/669,132)	ERTL, SPRANZA	PROCESS AND INSTRUMENTATION FOR ARTHROSCOPIC REDUCTION OF CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL DEPRESSION FRACTURES	6/24/96
SDEV-1-1008	U.S. Patent No. 5,954,638 (08/118,810)	SPRANZA	SURGICAL HARWARE FOR HOLDING LIVE TISSUE	ISSUED SEPT 21, 1999
SDEV-1-1009	U.S. Patent No. 6,884,245 B2 (10/127,142)	SPRANZA	HARWARE FOR CUTTING BONE CORES	ISSUED APRIL 26, 2005
SDEV-1-1012	U.S. Patent Application No. 08/546,916	SPRANZA AND/OR ASIGNEE SDI	PINS & PIN DRIVER	10/23/95

<b>SDEV-1-1013</b>	U.S. Patent Application No. 08/546,917	SPRANZA AND/OR ASIGNEE SDI	HARDWARE FOR HOLDING SYNOVIAL TISSUE DURING SURGERY "REFLECTOR"	10/23/95
<b>SDEV-1-1015</b>	U.S. Patent Application No. 11/176,105	SPRANZA AND/OR ASIGNEE SDI		

In accordance with the requirements of an inventor, Susan Spranza herein, and with the executed Power of Attorney documents has designated the law offices of Black Lowe & Graham to represent her before the USPTO.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Wendy M. Gombert, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 61,968

Black, Lowe & Graham PLLC

701 Fifth Avenue, Ste. 4800

Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone 206.381.3300

Facsimile: 206.381.3301

Enclosed Exhibits:

Exhibit A-

Exhibit B-

A true and correct copy of Death Certificate of Joseph J. Spranza III.

A true and correct copy of Order on Trustee's Motion of April 1, 2008.

# EXHIBIT A

# STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

### COUNTY OF PLACER

Auburn, California 95603

#### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3200731001533

STATE FILE NUMBER		LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER	
1. NAME OF DECEASED - FIRST (Given)		3. LAST (Family)	
JOSEPH		SPRANZA III	
2. MIDDLE		4. DATE OF BIRTH (month/day/year)	
JOHN		05/28/1938	
5. AGE Yrs		6. SEX	
69		M	
7. DATE OF DEATH (month/day/year)		8. HOUR (24 hours)	
07/09/2007		0115	
9. BIRTH STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY		10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
NJ		456-56-1181	
11. EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES?		12. MARITAL STATUS (at time of death)	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		MARRIED	
13. DECEASED'S RACE - Up to 3 races may be listed (see instructions on back)		14. DECEASED'S RACE - Up to 3 races may be listed (see instructions on back)	
DOCTORATE		WHITE	
15. USUAL OCCUPATION - Type of work for most of life. DO NOT USE RETIRED		16. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY (e.g., grocery store, food contractor, employment agency, etc.)	
DEVELOPER		MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS	
17. DECEASED'S RESIDENCE (Street and number or location)		18. YEARS IN OCCUPATION	
12493 OLD ROUGH AND READY HIGHWAY		45	
19. CITY		20. STATE/FOREIGN COUNTRY	
GRASS VALLEY		CALIFORNIA	
21. INFORMANT'S NAME, RELATIONSHIP		22. INFORMANT'S ADDRESS (Street and number or location, city or town, state, ZIP)	
SUSAN SPRANZA, WIFE		12493 OLD ROUGH & READY HWY, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945	
23. NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE - FIRST		24. MIDDLE	
SUSAN		MARGARET	
25. NAME OF FATHER - FIRST		26. MIDDLE	
JOSEPH		JOHN	
27. NAME OF MOTHER - FIRST		28. MIDDLE	
ELIZABETH		DROST	
29. DEPOSITION DATE (month/day/year)		30. PLACE OF FINAL DISPOSITION	
07/15/2007		UCSF WILLED BODY PROGRAM 513 PARNASSUS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94143-0902	
31. TYPE OF DISPOSITION		32. SIGNATURE OF EXAMINER	
SU		NOT EMBALMED	
33. NAME OF FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT		34. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR	
UCSF WILLED BODY PROGRAM		NONE	
35. LICENSE NUMBER		36. DATE (month/day/year)	
NONE		07/12/2007	
37. PLACE OF DEATH		38. IF OTHER THAN HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE	
SUTTER AUBURN FAITH HOSPITAL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL <input type="checkbox"/> HOME <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
39. CITY		40. IF OTHER THAN HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE	
PLACER		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HOSPITAL <input type="checkbox"/> HOME <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
41. STREET ADDRESS OR LOCATION WHERE FOUND (Street and number or location)		42. CITY	
11815 EDUCATION ST		AUBURN	
43. CAUSE OF DEATH		44. DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER?	
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (First diagnosis or condition resulting in death)		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
IN METASTATIC CANCER OF UNKNOWN PRIMARY		45. WEEK	
46. DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER?		47. DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER?	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
48. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RESULTING IN THE UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN OR NOT?		49. DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER?	
RENAL FAILURE, LIVER FAILURE		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
50. IF OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION (e.g., renal, liver, etc.) (Specify type of operation and date)		51. IF FEMALE, PRECINCT & LAST YEAR	
CT LIVER BIOPSY 06/15/2007		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
52. I CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE, AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSE STATED		53. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFIER	
54. DATE (month/day/year)		55. DATE (month/day/year)	
06/24/2007		07/08/2007	
56. TYPE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN'S NAME, ADDRESS, ADDRESS, ZIP CODE		57. LICENSE NUMBER	
3111 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, AUBURN, CA 95603		G77316	
58. I CERTIFY THAT IN MY OPINION DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE, AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSE STATED		59. DATE (month/day/year)	
60. NUMBER OF DEATH		61. DATE (month/day/year)	
1		07/12/2007	
62. PLACE OF DEATH (e.g., Home, construction site, wooded area, etc.)		63. HOURS (24 hours)	
124. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED (events which resulted in injury)		64. HOUR (24 hours)	
125. LOCATION OF INJURY (Street and number, or location, and city, and ZIP)		65. HOUR (24 hours)	
126. SIGNATURE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER		66. DATE (month/day/year)	
127. DATE (month/day/year)		67. TYPE NAME, TITLE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER	
128. SIGNATURE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER		68. TYPE NAME, TITLE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER	
129. SIGNATURE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER		69. TYPE NAME, TITLE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER	

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF PLACER

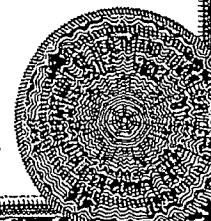
DATE ISSUED  
**07/24/2007**

\*000236391\*

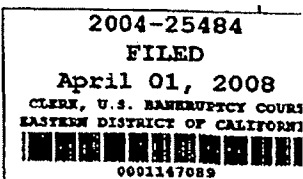
This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and placed on file in the office of the Placer County Health and Human Services Department.

This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of Registrar.

Richard J. Burton, M.D.  
HEALTH OFFICER AND LOCAL REGISTRAR



# EXHIBIT B



2  
1 Michael F. Burkart, Chapter 7 Trustee  
2 5150 Fair Oaks Blvd., #101-185  
3 Carmichael, CA 95608  
4 Tel: (916) 485-0412  
5 E-mail: [burkart@cwo.com](mailto:burkart@cwo.com)

6 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
7 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
8 SACRAMENTO DIVISION  
9

10 In re:

11 JOSEPH J. SPRANZA,

12 Debtor.  
13  
14

Case No. 04-25484-A-7

DCN: MFB - 6

DATE: March 31, 2008

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

DEPT: A

COURTROOM: 28 (7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

15 ORDER ON TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO APPROVE A DISTRIBUTION IN KIND  
16 TO THE SOLE REMAINING CREDITOR

17 The Motion of Michael F. Burkart, being the duly appointed Chapter 7 Trustee (the "Trustee")  
18 in the above-captioned case of Joseph J. Spranza (the "Debtor"), requesting an order authorizing the  
19 distribution in kind concerning the personal property held under the Bankruptcy Estate, was heard  
20 pursuant to this Court's regular Law and Motion calendar on March 31, 2008. The Trustee appeared  
21 on his own behalf at the hearing. Other appearances were noted on the record.

22 There was no opposition filed nor argued at the hearing with regard to the Trustee's Motion  
23 requesting an authorization of the distribution in kind of the remaining Personal Property.

24 The Court, having duly considered the Trustee's Motion and the Court's file herein, and good  
25 cause appearing therefor, ordered as follows:

26 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- A. The Trustee's Motion for an order authorizing the distribution in kind concerning the  
remaining Personal Property held under the Bankruptcy Estate is granted.

RECEIVED  
April 01, 2008  
CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
0001147089

1 B. The Trustee is authorized to distribute the remaining Personal Property of the Estate to  
2 Susan Spranza as provided under Proof of Claim No. 8, filed on January 24, 2008.

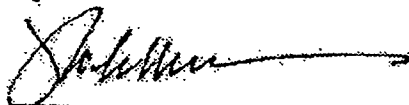
3 C. Immediately upon entry of this order, the following described Personal Property of the  
4 Estate shall be distributed in kind to Susan Spranza:

- 5 • Stock ownership in Special Devices, Inc.(SDI)
- 6 • Special Devices owes past due wages
- 7 • Special Devices owes personal loans
- 8 • Misc. Patents:
  - 9 a) Personal patent (promised to be assigned to SDI) – Flexi
  - 10 b) Shared patent (promised to be assigned to SDI) – AFRS, TOB
  - 11 c) Co-owned (licensed to SDI) - Safe Trochar
  - 12 d) 3<sup>rd</sup> party ownership (licensed to SDI) - Bone Biopsy
  - 13 e) Patent application (to be assigned to SDI) – Trephine
- 14 • 1980 Rolls Royce Camargue
- 15 • Moto Guzzi motorcycle
- 16 • 1957 Alfa Romeo Spider
- 17 • 1980 Maserati Quattro Porte
- 18 • 1991 Chrysler TC
- 19 • Misc. equipment used exclusively by SDI

20 D. The Trustee is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to complete the  
21 distribution of the remaining Personal Property of the Estate.

22 Dated: 01 April, 2008

By the Court



Michael S. McManus, Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court